

# ISAT Science Vocabulary

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The vocabulary list that follows is provided for classroom teachers to serve as a guide for the language used in science instruction. The intent is to produce a common vocabulary between the descriptive terms used in introducing core science concepts to students in classrooms in Idaho, and the terms that will be used to assess student understanding of the important science concepts covered by the Science Idaho Standards Achievement Test. Essentially, we want to foster a common language between the instruction and assessment of science, so that a student's performance on the Science ISAT will not be negatively impacted by semantics.

The terms included in this list are to be integrated into the language of instruction of classroom teachers as they guide their students through a rich and active science program. This list is **not** a list of words for students to memorize, and it is **not** a comprehensive list of the terms encountered in the science classroom. Rather, it is an aid to help ensure that the language of instruction and the language of assessment are similar.

This list has been broken down by the RIT range of items in which each word first appears. Please note that the standards eligible to be assessed in the Science ISAT are limited to a subset of standards identified as "Power Standards" and "Content Mini-Power Standards." Therefore, this list does not contain vocabulary related to every Idaho Science Standard.

## RIT Score Range: 161– 170

- (egg) shell
- hair
- leg

## RIT Score Range: 171– 180

- abdomen
- after
- antenna
- arm
- before
- body
- breathe
- burn
- caterpillar
- cause

## RIT Score Range: 171– 180 continued

- cloud
- cold
- compare
- count
- daytime
- design
- dew
- die
- down (feathers)
- drown
- dry
- enemy
- explain
- fall
- feline
- find out
- float
- fly

RIT Score Range: 171–  
180 continued

- forest
- forward
- gather
- gill
- head
- hibernate
- hind
- information
- jungle
- message
- mountain
- natural part
- neck
- need
- protect
- rain
- rank
- record
- science
- seed
- shoulder
- stage
- survive
- tadpole
- technology
- thorax
- waist
- warm
- wasp
- wet
- wing
- worm

RIT Score Range: 181–  
190

- (data) log
- accurate
- active
- adapt
- alive
- assume

RIT Score Range: 181–  
190 continued

- average
- balance (scale)
- bank
- belong
- bone
- bristle
- calorie
- camouflage
- carnivore
- climate
- color
- communicate
- conclude
- condensation
- conservation
- crystal
- data
- daylight
- deciduous forest
- defense
- developmental sequence
- earthquake
- earthworm
- efficiency
- evaporation
- expect
- experiment
- eye
- feet (measurement)
- fossil
- group
- have in common
- hearing
- herb
- herbivore
- identify
- intestines
- Jupiter
- magnetism
- magnifying glass
- Mars
- mate

RIT Score Range: 181–  
190 continued

- measurement
- measuring cup
- Mercury (metal)
- Mercury (planet)
- metal
- metric ruler
- mineral
- natural resource
- noise
- observe
- Pluto
- polluted
- pollution
- pond
- pond
- precipitation
- precise
- probable reason
- protection
- pump
- rainforest
- reason
- recycle
- result
- revolve
- rotate
- rough
- ruler
- Saturn
- scientist
- seasonal change
- segment
- sense
- shell
- signal
- sleep
- spring scale
- stone
- stream
- swim
- telescope
- tongue

RIT Score Range: 181–  
190 continued

- tool
- unit of measure
- Uranus
- vitamin
- water cycle
- water vapor
- woods
- work

RIT Score Range: 191–200

- adaptation
- adult
- affect
- asteroid
- backbone
- ball-and-socket joint
- beat
- bill
- birth
- bladder
- body part
- body section
- body segments
- boil
- Celsius
- cephalothorax
- characteristic
- circulation
- circulatory system
- classification
- cold-blooded
- computer
- constant
- control variables
- cubic
- cyclic pattern
- decay
- digestive system

RIT Score Range: 191–  
200 continued

- direct observation
- dissolve
- Earth's surface
- elbow
- enlarge
- equilibrium
- erosion
- esophagus
- evaporate
- experimental result
- experimentation
- extend
- extinct
- eyewitness
- flood
- four-chambered heart
- fresh water
- fulcrum
- gale
- geographic area
- glacier
- glow
- gradient
- gust
- hand lens
- heartbeat
- hibernation
- host
- humidity
- hypothesis
- hypothesize
- image
- imbalance
- inaccessible
- ingestion
- instrument
- internal
- intestine
- invertebrate
- investigation
- irrigation
- jointed leg

RIT Score Range: 191–  
200 continued

- judgment
- kidney
- knee
- larva
- latitude
- leopard
- lever
- life
- lightning
- lignite
- liver
- lubricant
- magma
- magnifying lens
- mechanism
- migration
- mimicry
- mix
- moon (satellite)
- moss
- muscular system
- nebula
- Neptune
- nervous system
- nitrogen
- nocturnal
- nonmetal
- nymph
- obtain
- ocean current
- operational definition
- organ
- parasite
- particle
- perception
- petal
- petrification
- phase
- photosynthesis
- Polaris
- pollen
- predator

RIT Score Range: 191–  
200 continued

- prediction
- prevailing wind
- prey
- protective coloration
- proton
- pupa
- quantification
- quantify
- rate
- reasonable result
- reflect
- regular increase
- regular pattern
- relationship
- remains (bodily)
- reproductive system
- reservoir
- respiratory system
- response
- rib
- scale (skin)
- scientific law
- scientific model
- scientific theory
- seed coat
- series
- sewage
- Sirius
- situation
- skeleton
- slate
- slope
- solute
- solvent
- spinal cord
- spines (bristles)
- stages of growth
- states of matter
- stethoscope
- stir
- study
- sublimation

RIT Score Range: 191–  
200 continued

- substance
- test
- thaw
- throat
- tide
- tornado
- transpiration
- twig
- valid
- vapor
- vertebrate
- vision
- volcano
- warm-blooded
- waste
- water supply
- wearing away/down
- weathering
- wind form
- X-ray machine

RIT Score Range: 201–210

- absolute knowledge
- absorption
- accelerate
- advantage
- air pressure
- air quality
- air resistance
- algae
- amphibious
- apparent size
- appear
- arrangement
- arthropod
- balance (equilibrium)
- basalt
- biome
- birth rate

RIT Score Range: 201–  
210 continued

- blue-green algae
- body system
- canyon
- capillary
- carbon monoxide
- cart
- cavern
- cell theory
- cell wall
- cellular
- center of gravity
- chance
- change over time
- charged particle
- chemical property
- chlorophyll
- circulate
- claim
- collide
- community
- compaction
- competition
- complete metamorphosis
- conduct
- conductor
- consume
- contract
- control
- convector
- convert
- crater
- crustacean
- dam
- death rate
- decompose
- decrease
- dense
- deposition
- descendant
- design experiment
- detergent
- development

RIT Score Range: 201–  
210 continued

- diameter
- digest
- discard
- disequilibrium
- distilled water
- droplet
- Earth's crust
- echinoderm
- ecological cycle
- ecology
- ecosystem
- electron
- embryo
- equilibrium
- evaluate
- evolution
- evolutionary change
- evolutionary trend
- evolve
- exhale
- exoskeleton
- expand
- fair test
- fault line
- faulting
- fertilization
- field of view
- fission
- flow of heat
- fluctuate
- folding
- food pyramid  
(ecological)
- food supply
- forecast
- formation
- formulate model
- fossil fuel
- frost
- full moon
- fungi
- funnel

RIT Score Range: 201–  
210 continued

- fusion
- gaseous
- generalization
- generation
- generator
- genetics
- geologist
- glaciation
- glucose
- gradual change
- graduated cylinder
- greenhouse effect
- hardness
- hereditary information
- heredity
- hold constant
- hot plate
- igneous rock
- inconclusive
- increase
- inert
- insulation
- insulator
- interpret data
- interval
- investigate
- ion
- justify
- kinetic
- landslide
- large intestine
- level
- life zone
- light-year
- magnesium
- magnetize
- magnification power
- metamorphic rock
- meteorite
- meteorologist
- meter stick
- migrate

RIT Score Range: 201–  
210 continued

- minimize
- molecular motion
- mollusk
- mushroom
- native
- natural gas
- neutral
- neutron
- new moon
- newton
- niche
- nitrogen cycle
- nitrogen dioxide
- nuclear membrane
- observable
- oil well
- omnivore
- orderly
- osmosis
- overpopulate
- parabola
- paramecia
- parent material
- pendulum
- percolating
- pest
- physical model
- pistil
- plasma
- platelet
- pollination
- pollutant
- porous rock
- positively charged
- precision
- predictable
- property
- protozoa
- pumice
- quality
- quantity
- radiate

RIT Score Range: 201–  
210 continued

- radiator
- rainfall
- random group
- reaction
- reading (as measurement)
- red blood cell
- regulate
- reject
- relative age
- reliable
- reversible
- rock cycle
- rock layer
- room temperature
- salinity
- saturation
- scale (measurement)
- scale (size)
- scale model
- scaled up
- sediment
- sedimentary rock
- sedimentation
- seismograph
- selenium
- silver
- sinkhole
- skeletal system
- skull
- small intestine
- social
- sound energy
- species
- sperm
- sponge
- spore
- stamen
- stationary
- succession
- sugar
- sulfur dioxide
- sulfur/sulphur

RIT Score Range: 201–  
210 continued

- survival
- symbiosis
- synthesis
- thermos jug
- tidal wave
- tin
- trace elements
- transfer
- transport
- trial-and-error procedure
- tube
- turbine
- umbilical cord
- unfair test
- unicellular
- uranium
- urinary bladder
- uterus
- vaporize
- variation
- vegetation
- vein
- virus
- waste materials
- waste product
- water pressure
- web
- white blood cell
- wind speed
- yeast
- yolk sac

RIT Score Range: 211–220

- abyssal floor
- abyssal plain
- agent
- air mass
- anatomy



RIT Score Range: 211–  
220 continued

- anemometer
- artesian well
- arthropoda
- ash
- atmospheric pollution
- atoll
- atomic energy
- atomic mass
- atomic number
- barometer
- beaker
- beetle
- behavior
- biomass
- body fat
- boiling point
- boundary
- brake
- calcium
- carbohydrate
- catalyst
- cellulose
- centi-
- centriole
- change of phase
- change of state
- chemical bond
- chemical change
- chemically combined
- chemistry
- chlorine
- chromosome
- cirrus
- cleavage
- coincidence
- cold front
- colony
- commensalism
- conception
- conduction
- continental margin
- continental slope

RIT Score Range: 211–  
220 continued

- controlled experiment
- convection
- corrosion
- cosmic rays
- crustal plate
- cyclic
- cyclic phenomenon
- cyclone
- deep-water zone
- dehydrate
- double-pan balance
- dry ice
- ear
- environmental condition
- enzyme
- episodic
- excretory system
- explosion
- expression
- external appendage
- eye of a hurricane
- fat
- fault zone
- fertilized
- fixed orbit
- flatworm
- freeze-dry
- freezing point
- frequency
- front
- gastrulation
- gene
- gene frequency
- gene pool
- genotype
- gestation
- geyser
- ground water
- Halley's Comet
- heat transfer
- helium
- humid

RIT Score Range: 211–  
220 continued

- hurricane
- hydrometer
- hygrometer
- igneous
- implantation
- indicate
- infectious disease
- inherited
- interrelationship
- involuntary responses
- isotope
- kelp
- lichen
- limited resources
- lipids
- lithium
- live birth
- lubricate
- lymphatic system
- measurable
- melting point
- mercury barometer
- mercury thermometer
- meteoroid
- metric unit
- Milky Way Galaxy
- millenium
- milli-
- moisture
- mudstone
- mutualism
- natural resources
- negatively charged
- nonrenewable
- Northern Hemisphere
- nuclear reaction
- nucleic acid
- nucleolus
- orderly pattern
- ore
- overcrowding
- overgrowth

RIT Score Range: 211–  
220 continued

- ovulation
- ovule
- parasitism
- period of revolution
- petrified wood
- petroleum
- phase change
- phenolphthalein
- phenomena
- phenotype
- physical
- physical change
- physical environment
- pigment
- population growth
- probable
- protoplasm
- quantitative
- radiation
- reactant
- recede
- recycling
- regulated
- renewable
- renewable energy
- renewable resource
- replacement
- replicate
- replication
- rust
- S.I. system
- sandstone
- satellite
- saturation point
- scientific evidence
- scientific principle
- sedimentary
- shale
- shallow-water zone
- shore
- single-celled
- sodium

RIT Score Range: 211–  
220 continued

- solidify
- solubility point
- spectroscope
- starch
- stigma
- stinging cell
- stress
- sublimate
- sublimation point
- submerge
- synthesize
- taxonomy
- tectonic plate
- testable
- testable
- theorize
- tidal
- tidewater
- timber
- trait
- trench
- tropical forest
- valence
- valley
- warm front
- white dwarf
- xylem

RIT Score Range: 221–230

- action
- additive
- adrenalin
- algal bloom
- alternative energy source
- amino acid
- amoeba
- aquarium
- aquifer
- asteroid belt
- axon
- bacteria of decay
- blood sugar level
- cancellation
- cellular respiration
- centrifugal force
- charge
- charged
- chemical equation
- chitin
- cilia
- coefficient
- conservation biologist
- conservation of mass
- conserve
- convergent plate boundary
- cumulus
- DDT
- delta
- diffusion
- divergent plate boundary
- ecological relationship
- efficient
- electric
- electrochemical impulse
- embed
- energy releasing process
- erupt
- estrogen
- extrusive
- factual
- fermentation
- fiber
- finding (scientific)
- flagella
- flow
- flying
- follicle-stimulating hormone
- fracture
- genus
- grams
- grassland
- guard cell

RIT Score Range: 221–  
230 continued

- holdfast
- hormone
- hydroelectric power
- inorganic
- insulin
- invalid (data)
- ionic
- kingdom
- locomotion
- malleable
- metallic
- methane
- Milky Way
- modification
- neuron
- neurotransmitter
- Newton's first law of motion
- Newton's second law of motion
- Newton's third law of motion
- nimbus
- nuclear fission
- oceanic crust
- opposing forces
- pancreas
- phototropism
- plant cell wall
- plasmodium
- procedure
- protist
- pseudopod
- purebred
- rate of entry
- reaction force
- regular time interval
- replicable
- rock face
- runoff
- scientific
- scientific method

RIT Score Range: 221–  
230 continued

- sense extender
- sodium chloride
- star cluster
- stomate
- stratus
- subduction boundary
- subsoil
- substratum
- surface wind
- synapse
- thunderhead
- tidal power
- transportation
- vestigial structure
- volcanic action

RIT Score Range: 231–  
240

- climate condition
- climax vegetation
- coelenterata
- conglomerate
- ebb tide
- flood tide
- genetic structure
- geotropism
- germination
- high pressure system
- high tide
- liverfluke
- low tide
- maturation
- mineral content
- nematoda
- phagocytosis
- pinocytosis
- pioneer vegetation
- primary consumer
- protein synthesis
- qualitative
- red tide

RIT Score Range: 231–  
240 continued

- release
- secondary consumer
- significance
- sprout
- tundra
- validation